

REMARKS

Applicant certainly appreciates the allowance of claims 10 and 12-15. Applicant further appreciates the indication of allowance of claims 3-9, 11, and 17-20, if amended to become independent, incorporating the requirements of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 20 accordingly. Rather than make claims 3-9 and 17-20 independent, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16, and submits that these claims and their dependent claims should now be allowable. Applicant has amended claims 11, 18 and 19 to correct the § 112 error. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 16 over Oliver.

Claim 1 requires a cone having a back base region with an annular wall spaced radially outward from a seal gland, the annular wall facing outward relative to the axis of the bearing pin. Referring to Figure 3, the annular wall is indicated by the numeral 37 in this example. Figures 5-9 also disclose annular wall 37 in a sectional view transverse to the bearing pin axis 18 (Figure 3). Claim 1 requires a diverter that has a head alongside the annular wall of the back face region. Claim 1 also requires that the head be wedge-shaped. Referring to the example of Figure 4, the head is indicated by the numeral 47. By being alongside annular wall 37, it scrapes debris from annular wall 37 and retards the entry of debris into seal gland 27 (Figure 2).

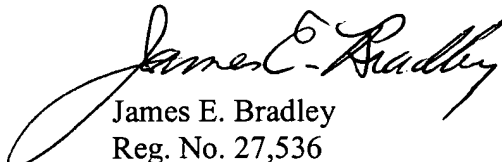
In Oliver, the cone does not have a back face region with an annular wall located outward of the seal gland and facing outward relative to an axis of the bearing pin. Referring to Figure 2 of Oliver, cone back face 30 is in a single plane. There is no annular wall on cone back face 30 that faces outward from the bearing pin axis and is located outward of seal gland 21. The head of diverter 37 contacts flat surface of cone back face 30 and is not located alongside any outward-facing annular wall. Similarly, in the embodiment of Figure 6, cone back face 230 does not have an annular wall that faces outward. Thus, Oliver does not meet the requirement in claim 1 of a cone having a wall on the back face region that faces outward.

Claim 16 has similar requirements as amended. It requires that the cone back face have a cylindrical wall that faces outward relative to the axis of the bearing pin. The claim requires a diverter with a head protruding therefrom alongside and radially outward of the cylindrical wall. Oliver does not suggest this requirement, as mentioned above. The combination of the annular wall and the diverter head provides a mechanism for restricting the entry of debris into the seal

gland area that is not shown in Oliver. Applicant submits that the claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Please charge the fee for the additional independent claim and additional claim more than 20 to Baker Hughes Deposit Account No. 02-0429.

Respectfully submitted,


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